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ALLEN-SCOTT REPORT

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**Backstage Plan to Augment Foreign Aid Funds
Brings Refusal from Consistent Johnson Backer**

WASHINGTON—President Johnson has pointedly before him a painfully clear example of just what he is up against when he undertakes to persuade Congress to approve another multi-billion dollar foreign aid budget.

Rep. Thomas Morgan, D-Pa., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a consistent administration supporter, has flatly refused to agree to a backstage plan to include \$312 million for the International Development Association in the President's still-unsubmitted foreign aid measure.

Aim of the proposed IDA "rider" was to circuitously revive the \$312 million appropriation the House rebuffed last month by voting 208 to 188 to send it back to the Banking & Currency Committee. As prospects for getting the IDA bill out of that committee again are far from promising, the "rider" was conceived as a canny stratagem to bypass the committee.

But Morgan bluntly balked. He would have none of it for the following very good reason:

"You are going to have all you can do to put through the multi-billion dollar foreign aid budget," he frankly told the White House, "without adding to your difficulties. If the IDA proposal is made part of the foreign aid program, you will jeopardize both. I very seriously doubt my committee would agree to that, and I strongly advise against it."

This emphatic rejection slammed another door on the IDA fund which continues stalled in the Banking & Currency Committee. Rep. Wright Patman, D-Tex., chairman, is leaving it squarely up to the President to get the measure out of the committee.

So far the votes are lacking. Whether the President can win them over remains to be seen.

The Senate narrowly approved the additional IDA funds 38 to 31 after a sharp fight by a bipartisan group led by Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., vigorous foe of large-scale foreign aid spending. The opposition contended the IDA proposal was a form of "back door" foreign aid.

The \$312 million appropriation would increase this country's share of the funds of the International Development Association — a "soft-loan" agency of the World Bank. Established in 1960 with a \$1 billion fund, of which the U. S. put up \$320 million, IDA so far has loaned \$554 million — most of it (\$300 million) to India.

The new money is to increase IDA's fund by \$750 million, with other nations contributing \$438 million.

VERY BUSY "NON-CANDIDATE"

For a carefully undeclared aspirant for the Republican presidential nomination, Richard Nixon is going to be extremely busy this spring.

You will be reading and hearing more about him than at any time since he ran for president in 1960. His schedule calls for far-flung traveling and a number of imposing addresses. Following are highlights of what's ahead of him:

Whirlwind tour of Latin America, similar to the one he is now making in the Far East.

Fast trip to Europe for a series of conferences with top officials.

Address on April 18, in Washington, before the annual meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Titled "An Appraisal of the Johnson Administration," this is to be one of the former vice president's most important pre-convention talks. He is telling intimates he will pull no punches in his analysis of the President and his regime.

Address on April 25 as the GOP speaker before the Gridiron Club. This newsmen's organization selected Nixon for this role as the titular leader of his party. President Johnson has been invited to speak for his party.

During Nixon's Washington visit for his ASNE talk, he will meet privately with two press groups — one consisting of editors, the other of correspondents.

The last is being arranged at his request by several newsmen with whom he has long been on close terms. Purpose of both sessions is to discuss his campaign plans and prospects, and to get the views and suggestions of the correspondents and editors.

Nixon is telling Washington friends his strategy is to concentrate his attention and fire on the Democratic administration, and to say nothing publicly about other Republican candidates.

"I'm going to leave that to others," explains Nixon. "There is plenty to say about the Johnson administration, and that's what I am going to devote myself to."

POLITICALS

The State Department is making strenuous backstage efforts to persuade foreign heads of state to come to Washington in the spring and summer months before the Democratic convention in late August. The aim is a schedule of two or three headline visitors a month. Countries particularly being "solicited" are those with large population elements in the U. S. . . . Administration insiders are saying that John Duncan, first Negro commissioner of the District of Columbia, is slated to be named an assistant secretary of Interior. Also that his successor will be Mrs. Polly Shackleton, who appeared all set to be appointed commissioner last month, only at the last moment to be mysteriously dropped. . . . While members of Congress and the Postoffice Department are flooded with complaints about record-poor service, Postmaster General John Gronouski is embarking on a nationwide political speaking tour — chiefly before foreign language groups. The Wisconsinite, whose appointment early last year by the late President Kennedy was largely political, has paid little attention to postal affairs since he has been in office. That's why career postal official Frederick Belen was recently made deputy postmaster general, so as to have a professional in charge of the giant agency.